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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO.                     

TOPIC General Information on the Demonstrations

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 17 to 24 June 1953

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REFERENCES                     

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

REMARKS                     

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1. At about 11 a.m. on 17 June 1953, troops stationed in Camp Sachsenhausen, Oranienburg, were on the alert. The gates of the camp were closed, the muzzle covers of the guns removed and the guns emplaced. The watchtowers of the concentration camp were manned and the guard personnel reinforced. At about 1 p.m., 12 T-34/85 tanks and about 250 troops on trucks entered the town and occupied crossings, main buildings and arterial roads. Martial law was declared; curfew was from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on the following day. There were no major scuffles between the troops and the population. The troops remained at their positions until 21 June and, subsequently, returned to the camp, where they continued to be on the alert. Troops and tanks were patrolling the town. During the last days, mixed patrols of VP and Soviet soldiers were observed. The KVP units stationed at the camp were on the alert since 16 June, but stayed inside the camp. At about 10 a.m. on 17 June, about 400 to 450 VPs on trucks left toward south. It was rumored that the KVP had left for Hennigsdorf. They did not return prior to 23 June.

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On the

afternoon of 16 June, when the news of the strike and the protest march of the construction workers in Berlin had spread, excited crowds gathered in the streets and assembled in front of the town hall, the SED building and in the streets adjacent to the castle, which was occupied by VP. They demanded that the government be removed and free elections be held. The police took no action except guarded the doors of the administration buildings. No Soviet soldiers were seen in the town on that day. On 17 June, all enterprises in Oranienburg were on strike. The news of major demonstrations and of the march, the workers in Hennigsdorf had made to Berlin, spread in the town as early as 8:30 a.m. and incited many workers to also go toward Berlin. There were, however, no riots in the town on this morning. The SED house was sealed off by a large police detail which, however, took no other action against demonstrating crowds except guarding the buildings. When the troops from Camp Sachsenhausen cleaned the districts in the town, the demonstrators receded only slowly, shouting protests against the tanks and soldiers. Several demonstrators were arrested in the afternoon. Their number and whereabouts could not be determined. No new demonstrations followed. The strike in the enterprises had ended on 19 June. The population was excited and in a rebellious mood, particularly because of the shortage of foodstuff, with no potatoes and bread available. The population believed that a second and still greater uprising would follow and was not discouraged by the intervention of the Soviet troops. It was generally believed that the West would eventually give support.<sup>1</sup> On 24 June, source determined that roads were blocked in the area of the troop training grounds. Major troop elements bivouacked in the training area. Troops observed carried

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full field equipment. About 300 tanks were observed with the assembled troops.<sup>2</sup>

2. Martial law was declared in Neustrelitz at 5 p.m. on 17 June. Colonel Cheshuk (fnu) was commander of the troops employed in the occupation.

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3. Prior to 22 June, the Delius Kaserne, Potsdam, was occupied as previously by about 800 troops. At noon on 15 June, four 152-mm guns were in the northern barracks yard. About 35 soldiers practiced loading and aiming on three 152-mm guns in the training area in front of the installation. At 10 a.m. on 22 June, about 80 troops had fallen in for a roll call in the barracks yard of the north section of the installation. Forty soldiers engaged in physical training. About 80 troops received training in firing in the training area.<sup>3</sup>

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4. Prior to 24 June, the Stammlager Zossen was occupied to capacity by an estimated 3,000 artillery troops. The newly erected constructions in the area of the former Daimler-Benz plant were not yet completed. The Lutz Kaserne was occupied by a tank unit, which numbered about 1,500 troops and was equipped with T-34/85 tanks. The Panzertruppen Schule was occupied by various units, totaling about 2,500 men. Infantry units, motor transport units, uniformed women and civilians were observed. The Soviet-occupied section of the village of Wuensdorf mostly housed officers and uniformed women. At about 11 a.m. on 17 June, the troops stationed in the area of the Wuensdorf post were on the alert. The entire area was sealed off by major guard details. Two T-34/85 tanks took position at the northern and southern exits of the village. The Soviet-occupied section of the village was also secured by several tanks, posted along the boundary between this section and the civilian section. Source determined that the infantry units, which were armed and carried full field equipment, throughout the day stayed near the trucks, which were ready to leave. The units were still on the alert on 18 June. On the morning of 19 June, [ ] the troops had returned to their quarters. No troops from the Wuensdorf garrison area were marched toward Berlin during the demonstrations. Soviet and German employees of the tank repair shop continued work without interruption.<sup>4</sup>

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1. [ ] Comment. The troops employed in the security measures probably belonged to the unidentified tank training battalion of the 25th Tank Div stationed in Camp Sachsenhausen. Other units employed in the occupation of Oranienburg and vicinity were troops of the division which, on 17 June, had been transferred to the Weisse Stadt from Templin. [ ]

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2. [ ] Comment. The troops may be elements of a division which moved to the Berlin area as a reserve and whose movement had not been observed. On the other hand, the troops, as well, may have been major elements of the 1st Mecz Div, as, since about 25 June, the number of troops of the division observed in their known employment areas in the central and south section of East Berlin had been unusually small.

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3. [ ] Comment. The information on the occupation of the Delius Kaserne after the beginning of the demonstrations had failed to give indications for the location of the 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig. According to information in this report, the brigade apparently was at its quarters in the north section of the Delius Kaserne on 22 June. [ ]

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4. [ ] Comment. The information fails to indicate whether the observed units were the permanent occupation of Wuensdorf or whether additional units, possibly from Jueterbog, had been transferred to Wuensdorf for the protection of the headquarters of the GORC. [ ] the designation Daimler Benz Plant, referred to the destroyed area south of Stammlager Zossen.

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